



FEMA

Maryland Assesses its Vulnerability to Flooding

The State of Maryland - Maryland has had its share of major flood events since the first recorded major flood event in May of 1860. Since 1933, the state has sought to ensure public safety from flooding through the regulation of development projects proposed for the floodplain. As part of its long history of flood mitigation, Maryland has also used its Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program (CFMGP) to mitigate flood damage through projects such as acquisitions, the installation of flood warning systems, the construction of flood control projects, as well as many other projects over the years.

Previously, determining vulnerability to flood damage was not very exact, involving overlaying Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) with tax parcel assessment information to establish flood vulnerability. Before the flood damage vulnerability assessment, the average age of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) used to determine floodplains was 19 years old. Flood studies would be needed to ensure flood safety was more accurate and up-to-date.

To tackle this daunting task, the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) at Salisbury University was asked to undertake a vulnerability modeling effort. This would provide a systematic examination of the vulnerability of Maryland's built environment to riverine and coastal flooding.

Using FEMA's HAZUS-MH, a hazard vulnerability analysis modeling software, the ESRGC sought to generate maps and tables of Maryland's potential for loss related to buildings from flooding on a county-by-county basis.

These findings by the HAZUS-MH models were published into a report by the MDE which made several policy recommendations to mitigate the potential impacts of flooding.

This report, "An Assessment of Maryland's Vulnerability to Flood Damage", has been selected by the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) for an award for Public Education or Research.



State-wide,
Maryland



Quick Facts

Sector:

Public

Cost:

\$20,000.00 (Actual)

Primary Activity/Project:

Flood Study Map Rollout/ Map Modernization

Primary Funding:

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)